

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

PR&CS Administration, 1401 Recreation Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80905



Agenda TOPS Working Committee

Wednesday April 6, 2022	7:30 a.m.	1401 Recreation Way
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How to comment:

- *For Citizen Discussion concerning items that are not on the agenda please email your comments to PRCS-TOPSTWorkingCommittee-SMB@coloradosprings.gov in advance of the meeting.*
- *For Agenda Items - Before the meeting, those who wish to comment should submit their name and the topic or agenda item for comment to PRCS-TOPSTWorkingCommittee-SMB@coloradosprings.gov.*

Agenda Preview

Board Chair

Announcements

Staff and Committee

Approval of Minutes

March 2, 2022

Committee

Citizen Discussion

Citizens

Action Items

Presentation Items

Jimmy Camp Creek Informational Presentation
TOPS 25 Celebration!

Britt Haley / Matt Mayberry / Anna Cordova
Vanessa Zink/Anna White/ Britt Haley

Citizen Discussion

Citizens

Adjournment

TOPS Working Committee

Jimmy Camp Creek Park

Informational Presentation

April 6, 2022

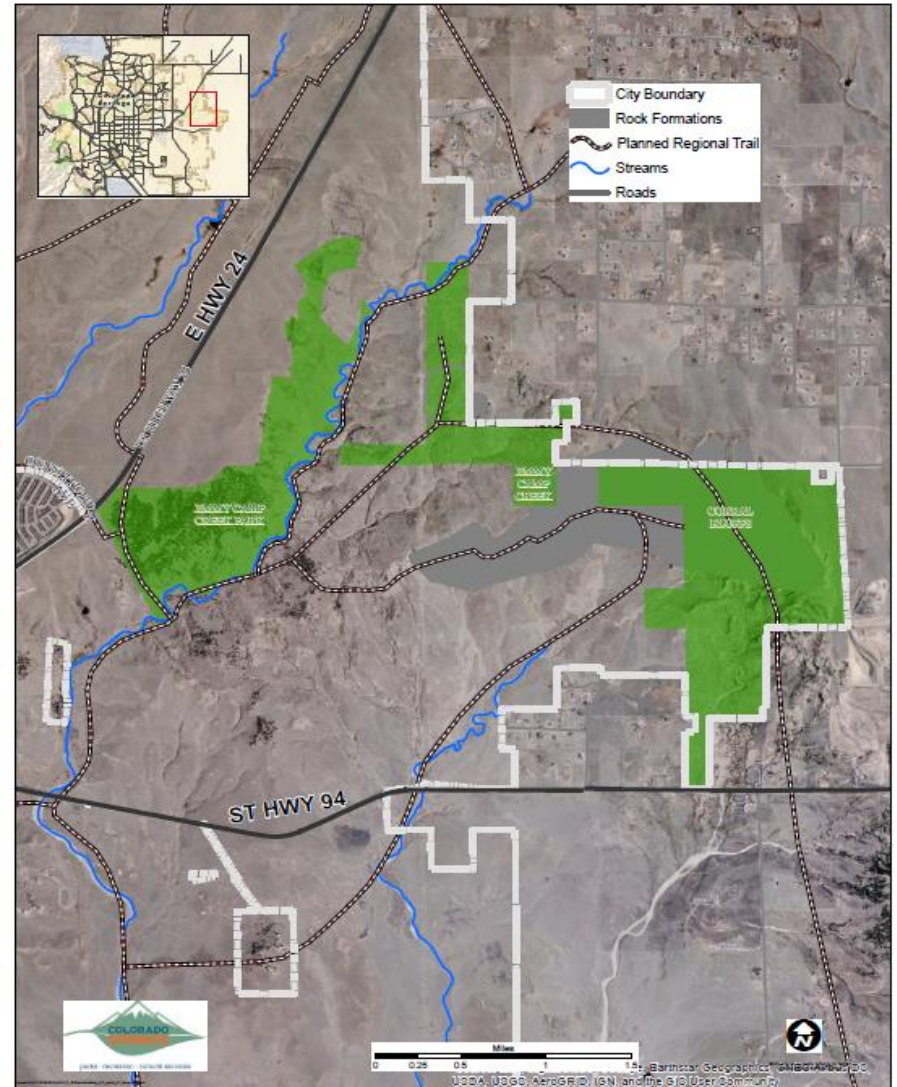
Britt Haley- Design & Development Manager
Matt Mayberry-Cultural Services Manager
Anna Cordova- Parks Department Archaeologist



General Context Map



- 693 acres gifted to the City in 1988 as part of the original Banning Lewis Ranch annexation
- Updated City of Colorado Springs property ownership in green
- 2020 acquisitions in the center Jimmy Camp Creek Connection properties
- Located between State Highway 24 and State Highway 94



Unique Features and Opportunities



- **Property Planning**
- **History**
- **Archaeology**



Photo Credit
Sharon Milito

Property Planning Overview



- Acquired 1988 Annexation of Banning Lewis Ranch
- Not part of Parkland Dedication for development process (PLDO)
- Passive recreational uses identified in the annexation agreement
- PK Zoning commitment-Passive uses until master planned to avoid damage to known significant prehistoric and historic archaeological sites

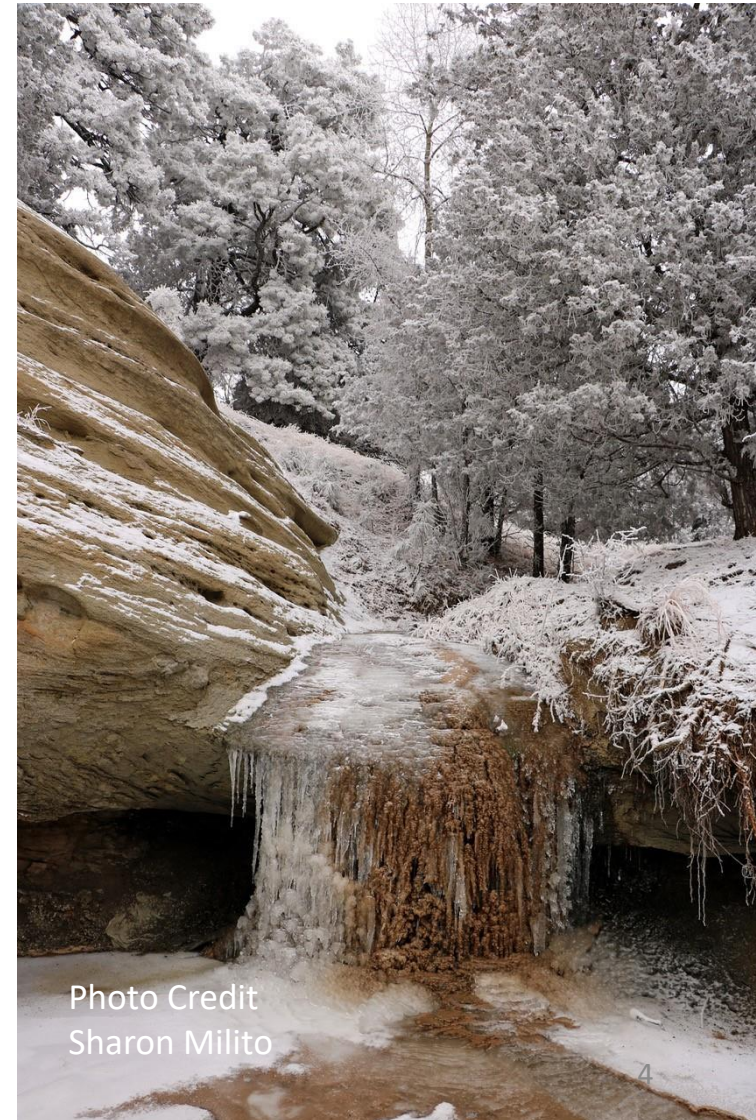


Photo Credit
Sharon Milito

Park Planning Practical Considerations



- Connectivity to Corral Bluffs Open Space is our goal
- Boundaries- Irregular, surrounded by private property
 - Irregular shape requires boundary definition or additional acquisition
 - Cattle grazing on the neighboring property requires special care
- Neighboring development planning-need to coordinate
 - Access to be developed from Highway 24 via an easement across private property
 - Current access is a two-track dirt road with a ranch gate
 - Future Banning Lewis Parkway access seems like a possibility on the south side of the property
- Significant wildlife habitat and trail opportunities
- Current actions to prepare for planning
 - Archaeological survey work will be conducted this year to confirm and identify sites
 - Property acquisition discussions ongoing
 - Tribal consultation

Cultural and Scientific Landscape



- Jimmy Camp and Corral Bluffs are connected by a shared geology, topography and natural resources.
- Extraordinary paleontology research and more discoveries are expected.
- Water is a key element at the site that provided forage, game, and shelter
- Extensive prehistoric and historic human habitation



“Jimmy Camp has an incredible record of human occupation that is unique anywhere in the state.”

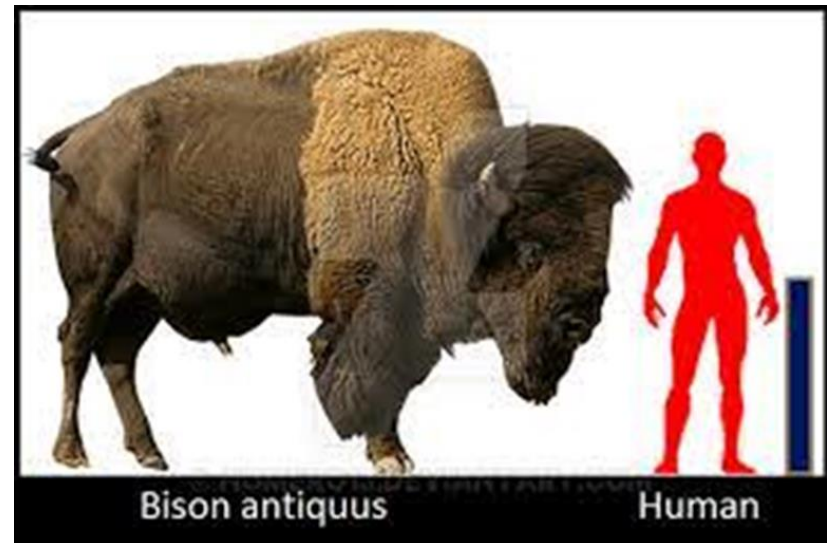
Dr. Holly Norton,
Colorado State Archaeologist



Prehistoric Timeline



- Evidence of human occupation at least 3,500 years ago and possibly much older.





Historic Timeline

- Spanish, French, American trade and influence
- Exploration and cattle trails
- Coal mining and railroads
- Settlement and ranching



Historic Timeline

- Increased scientific interest leads to major discovery by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science
- [“Rise of the Mammals”](#)
Documentary

What is archaeology?



- Human-made material culture
- 50 years or older
- Can include features such as roads, modified natural objects (like peeled trees), buildings, etc.
- Separate from the paleontology
- Requires a permit and consultation through the State Archaeologist's Office
- Often required as part of environmental review processes



Chipped stone tools found at Jimmy Camp



Lid of ice cream churn patented in 1898



Projectile point found at nearby Corral Bluffs

Archeological and Cultural Resources



- A minimum of 144 archaeological sites and isolated finds
- Site density like the Four Corners (Mesa Verde) area
- Many sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- Unique within the state
- Only one site has been excavated/investigated
- Human remains have been found here
- Fairly untouched



- “In my more than 30 years of cultural resource consulting and archaeological investigations ...I have never encountered a locale with the density of significant sites as that presented at Jimmy Camp Creek Park.” – Bill Arbogast, Archaeologist



Bill Arbogast - Archaeologist

Types of Resources



- Pre-European Contact sites with potential to teach us things about that past that we do not currently know:
 - camping
 - hunting
 - subsistence
 - trade
- Post-European Contact sites represent:
 - Ranching
 - Homesteading
 - Trade
 - WWII Training
- Natural resources that have cultural meaning to Native American tribes



What does mitigation look like?



- Researching what we already know of the property
- Re-visitation of sites and additional survey
- Tribal consultation
- Consultation with State Archaeologist's Office and Native American Tribes
- Evaluation of threats to the sites from future public access
- Development of a plan for future inspections to evaluate new threats to the archaeological resources



A view of Jimmy Camp's trees with fall foliage with Pikes Peak in the background

Questions...



Photo Credit
Sharon Milito

COLORADO SPRINGS PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
TOPS WORKING COMMITTEE

Date: April 6, 2022

Item Number: Presentation Item #1

Item Name: Jimmy Camp Creek Park Informational Presentation

SUMMARY:

At the end of 2021, City Councilmember Wayne Williams asked the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department to provide an update on the steps the Department is taking regarding Jimmy Camp Creek Park, a nearly 700-acre undeveloped park site on the eastern edge of the City of Colorado Springs. Department staff provided a presentation in response to that request at the City Council Work Session on March 21, 2022. This presentation shares the same information with the TOPS Working Committee. The Jimmy Camp Creek Park site would be eligible for funds associated with the Parks category of the TOPS sales and use tax.

BACKGROUND:

Jimmy Camp Creek Park was gifted to the City of Colorado Springs in 1988, as part of the original Banning Lewis Ranch Annexation. The site is comprised of almost 700 acres and is near the intersection of Highway 24 and Constitution Avenue. It is bordered by Jimmy Camp Creek on its eastern edge. Before gifting the acreage to the City of Colorado Springs, the prior property owner completed an archaeological and cultural resources survey. That survey indicated the site had extensive and sensitive archaeological resources unlike anywhere on the Front Range of the State of Colorado. Of the 144 sites identified in the prior survey, only one has been excavated and studied so far.

Over the years, city staff have worked closely with elected officials, conservation organizations, land trusts, park advocates and local leaders to acquire additional property between the Jimmy Camp Creek Park site and the Corral Bluffs Open Space with the goal of connecting the two areas. Staff are having ongoing conversations with the current property owners about acquisition.

Jimmy Camp Creek Park has remained on the City's list of unfunded park development projects while staff works to secure additional acreage. Over the past six years, the Department has secured an additional 738 acres towards connection of the two sites. The two properties form a unique cultural and scientific landscape. The Department staff have worked closely with scientists from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS) to support their continued scientific research and discovery. The scientists' most recent finds are documented in the NOVA special "The Rise of the Mammals" and are on exhibit at the DMNS. In 2019, these discoveries received recognition as the second most significant scientific discovery in the world. The property is accessible to the public through guided hikes provided by the Corral Bluffs Alliance.

In 2021, due to budget savings, the Department requested to reallocate funds to conduct an updated archaeological survey for the property. An updated survey will be fundamental to determine our next steps in the planning process. Subsequent conversations have been occurring with our State Historic Preservation Office due to the significance of the cultural resources on the site. Staff is currently developing the scope for the updated archaeological survey which will include consultation with Native American tribal representatives.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Staff is researching questions from City Councilmembers interested in what it would cost to address site access, additional land acquisition and to master plan the site.

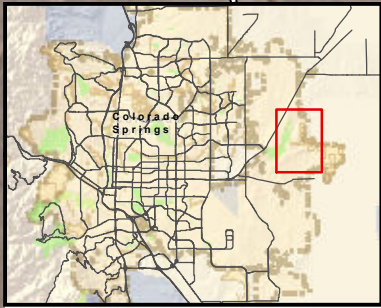
STAKEHOLDER PROCESS:

The TOPS Working Committee meetings and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meetings provide opportunities for public comment.

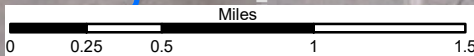
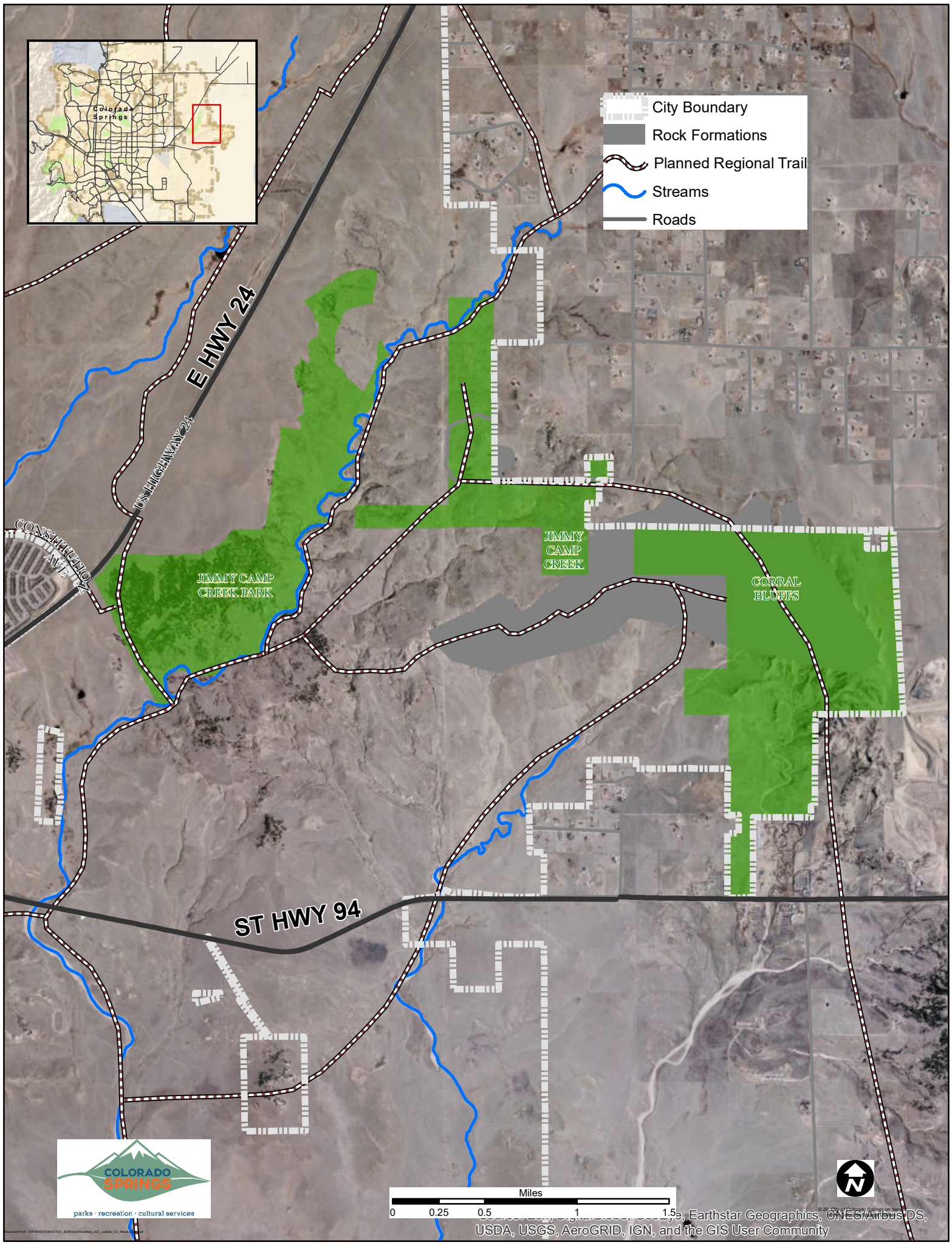
Attachments:

Map depicting the properties

Slide presentation



- City Boundary
- Rock Formations
- Planned Regional Trail
- Streams
- Roads

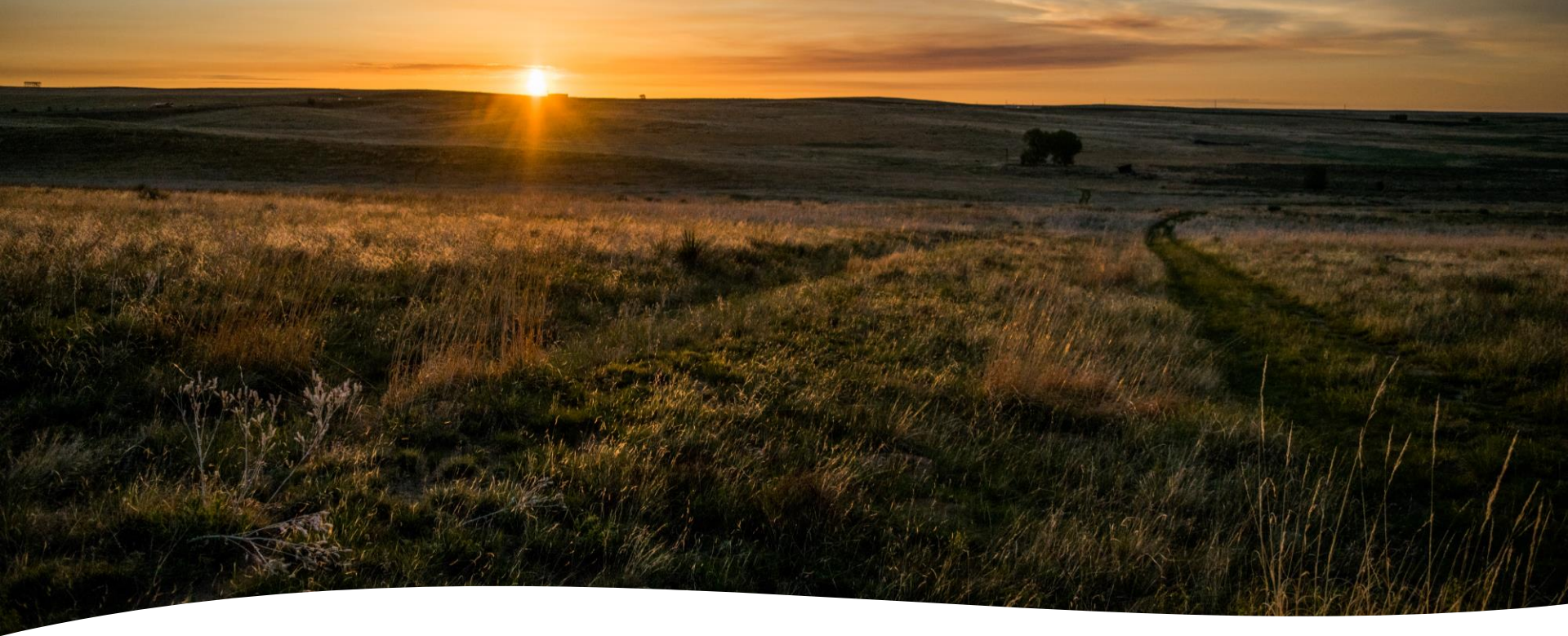


Thank you, Colorado Springs

For your 25-year investment in
Trails, Open Spaces and Parks

April 6, 2022





Objective

Increase TOPS awareness by tapping into community pride and resident return on investment after 25 years of the Trails, Open Space and Parks sales tax program.





Communications Goals

Celebrate 25 years of TOPS successes

- Share stories

Envision the next 25 years, the next 125

- Promote opportunities



Key Topics

- Conservation
- Forest health
- Access to public land throughout the city
- Responsible growth
- Health & wellness
- Recreation
- Projects in queue
- Escalating value of acquisitions



Key Moments

APRIL

- Kickoff
- Earth Day at Garden of the Gods (April 16)
- City Nature Challenge (April 29-May 2)

MAY

- Arbor Day (May 11)
- Mayors Cup (May 13)
- Kids to Parks (May 21)

JUNE

- Great Outdoors Month
- Get Outdoors Day (June 4) & Free Fishing Weekend
- National Trails Day (June 4)

JULY

- National Parks & Rec Month
- Panorama Park Grand Opening
- TOPS25 event

AUGUST

- Special community viewing opportunity of Rise of the Mammals

SEPTEMBER

- Creek Week



Channels



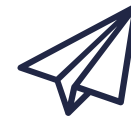
Social Media



**Behind the Springs
Podcast**



Website



**The Insider – COS
employee newsletter**



City e-newsletter



Special Events



**Stakeholder
outreach**



**Earned Media –
TV/Radio/Print**



Implementation

Faces of TOPS campaign

Stakeholder toolkit

Integrated messaging

TOPS 25 marquee event

Viewing party / lecture

Commemorative item





Faces of TOPS

25-week social media campaign, April 4-Sept. 23

Through strong imagery and storytelling, 25 local “influencers” will share what TOPS means to them

Each post will uniquely answer what TOPS is

Anyone with a story that connects them to COS trails, open space and parks will be considered for the campaign



Faces of TOPS

Vincent Zhou

Olympic figure skater (2018, 2022)

For 25 years, TOPS has provided places to boost our mental health and support our well-being.

#myTOPS

Anna Cordova

City Archaeologist

For 25 years, TOPS has helped us connect our past to our present.





Faces of TOPS

Black Tailed Prairie Dog

For 25 years, TOPS has been helping to preserve my home and my way of life.

#myTOPS

